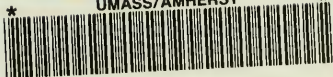


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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SELECTMEN

AND

SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

TO THE INHABITANTS OF THE

Town of Montague,

1885-86.

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1885-86

URNERS FALLS, MASS.:

PR

IL T. BAGNALL, PROPRIETOR OF REPORTER.

1886.

TOWN WARRANT.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

FRANKLIN SS.

To either of the Constables of the Town of Montague, in the County of Franklin, Greeting:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said town, qualified to vote in elections, and in town affairs, to meet at the UNION SKATING RINK, Fourth street, in Turners Falls, in said Montague, on **MONDAY, the first day of MARCH Next, at TEN o'clock** in the forenoon,

then and there to act on the following articles:

1st. To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

2nd. To choose all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year: By vote of the Town, the Town clerk, Treasurer, three Selectmen, three Assessors, three Overseers of the Poor, one School Committee for three years, three Members of the Board of Health, three Fence Viewers, Three Auditors and twelve Constables; all are to be chosen on one ballot.

3rd. To vote by separate ballot, yes or no, on the question, shall license be granted for the sale of intoxicating liquors in this town?

4th. To hear the reports of the Selectmen, School Committee, and others, and act thereon.

5th. To hear the report of the Committee on Sewers, and act thereon.

6th. To raise such sums of money as may be necessary for Town debts and expenses for the ensuing year, and make appropriations of same.

7th. To act anything relating to building and repairing Highways and Bridges the ensuing year.

8th. To see if the Town will authorize the appointment of a Night Police at Turners Falls, and make appropriations for the same, or act anything in regard to Police.

9th. To see if the Town will fix the time when Taxes shall be paid, and act anything in relation to interest or discount on the Taxes.

10th. To see if the Town will appropriate one hundred dollars for Memorial Day to be divided equally between the two Grand Army Posts in the Town.

11th. To act on list of Jurors, as proposed by the Selectmen.

12th. To see if the Town will accept the location of J Street as made by the Selectmen and build and establish the same as a public highway and make appropriation for same.

13th. To see if the Town will change Section 1st in Article 2nd of the Town by-laws, to read as follows: The financial year of the Town shall end on the fifth day of February in each year.

14th. To see if the Town will act anything in regard to enlarging the Burial ground at Millers Falls, and make any appropriation for the same.

15th. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to borrow money in anticipation of the Taxes and Sewer Assessment, or act anything thereon.

16th. To see if the Town will make any appropriation for the payment of old bills.

17th. To see if the town will adopt the provisions of sections 20, 21, 22 and 23, of chapter 50 of the Public Statutes.

18th. To see if the Town will act anything in relation to the enlarging Central Street School lot.

19th. To see if the Town will build a bank wall on Hill Street and make appropriation for same.

And you are directed to serve this warrant by posting up attested copies thereof, in some conspicuous place in each of the post offices of the Town at least seven days before said meeting, and by publishing the same once in some newspaper published in town, if there be such newspaper.

Hereof fail not, and make due return of this warrant with your doings thereon to the Town clerk, at the time and place of meeting as aforesaid

Given under our hands, this eighteenth day February, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-six.

S. E. RIPLEY,)
F. F. McCUE,) SELECTMEN
I. CHENERY,) OF
MONTAGUE

A true copy attest:

F. F. McCUE, Constable.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SELECTMEN

AND

SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

TO THE INHABITANTS OF THE


Town of Montague,

1885-86.



TURNERS FALLS, MASS.:

Turners Falls Reporter Steam Printing House, Cecil T. Fagnall, Proprietor.
1886.



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TREASURER'S REPORT.

To the Inhabitants of the Town of Montague, Greeting:

The undersigned, to whom you have entrusted the care of the funds of the Town, presents the following report :

1st.—The sources from which the funds have been obtained.

Brought forward from the former financial year,	\$106 86
From Lesees of the New London Northern Railroad,	
St. Albans, Vt.,	60 00
Notes discounted at Crocker Nat'l Bank,	11,494 50
Rent of Vestry under Town Hall,	30 00
Liquor licenses,	5,800 00
Fitchburg Railroad Co., for ties,	186 75
County, for dog licenses,	227 50
The Lockup,	26 50
Sewer bonds,	50,000 00
Premium on bonds,	2,015 00
Interest of bonds,	361 97
Support of the Poor,	325 80
State Treas. for balances of accounts,	296 84
S. E. Ripley for taxes,	57,050 86
E. Demond, “	197 50
E. F. Gunn, “	329 40
D. W. Bond, for witness fees,	85 73
C. A. Stebbins, for support of Rice's ferry,	31 50
Rent of Town Hall,	37 00
Skating Rink license,	5 00
Auctioneer's license,	2 00
Tuitions,	20 00
The sale of old plank,	6 00
Greenfield, for labor and lumber on bridges, etc.,	390 59
	<hr/>
	\$129,087 30

2nd. The payments, and for what purposes the funds of the Town have been used :

For orders from the Selectmen,	\$80,464 56
“ “ “ School Committee,	14,237 32
“ “ “ Overseers of the Poor,	4,498 17
“ Temporary Interest,	302 68
“ Interest on old notes of the Town,	1,125 00
“ Old note,	5,000 00
“ Sewer note and interest,	3,527 22
“ Two notes to Crocker National Bank,	8,000 00
“ County taxes,	4,309 37
“ Commonwealth taxes,	2,430 00
“ “ one fourth Liquor Licenses,	1,450 00
“ Coupons of Sewer Bonds,	1,000 00
“ Balances of accounts to Commonwealth,	2,664 57
	<hr/>
	\$129,008 89
Leaving a balance of	78 41
	<hr/>
	\$129,087 30

SEWERS.

The sources from which the funds were obtained as follows :

Bonds,	\$50,000 00
Premium on Bonds,	2,015 00
Interest on Bonds,	361 97
	<hr/>
	\$52,376 97
Expenditures,	\$46,119 03
Coupons,	1,000 00
	<hr/>
	47,119 03
Appropriated to be taken out,	350 00
	<hr/>
	46,769 03
Balance to the credit of sewers,	5,607 94
	<hr/>
	\$52,376 97

ASSETS.

Due on taxes of 1882,	\$400 67
“ “ 1883,	124 67
“ “ 1884,	2,487 72
“ “ 1885,	6,545 88
Due from Commonwealth of State and Military Aid,	815 00
Cash on hand,	78 41
	<hr/>
	\$10,452 35

LIABILITIES.

Notes of the Town now unpaid,	\$20,000 00
Sewer Bonds,	50,000 00
Note to Crocker National Bank,	5,500 00
	<hr/>
	\$75,500 00

LIABILITIES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENSUING.

Interest on old notes,	\$900 00
Payment of one of the notes,	5,000 00
Coupons of Sewer Bonds,	2,000 00
	<hr/>
	\$7,900 00

Respectfully submitted as a correct exposition of the financial business of the Town for the current year.

WILLIAM P. CROCKER, Town Treasurer.

SCHOOLING.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE'S ACCOUNT.

To	appropriation for School, Repairs, Supplies, etc.,	\$14,000 00
From	State School Fund,	226 74
“	Tuition,	20 00
		<hr/>
		\$14,246 74

DISBURSEMENTS.

Teachers' salaries,	\$9079 45	
Text-books and supplies,	1582 52	
Repairs,	1255 91	
Transportation,	900 50	
Care of School houses,	715 84	
Fuel,	591 77	
Printing, Stationery, Postage,	111 33	
		<hr/>
		\$14,237 32
		<hr/>
Balance,		\$9 42

WM. S. DANA,	}	SUPT. SCHOOL
A. V. BOWKER,		
SEYMOUR ROCKWELL,		COMMITTEE.

SEWER COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

TURNERS FALLS, MASS. Feb. 18, 1886.

To the citizens of Montague, in Town Meeting assembled :

Your Committee on Sewers offer the following report of their doings to date :

At the first meeting of the Committee held after the Town meeting of May last, and in view of the apparent sentiment of the citizens as expressed at that meeting, concluded to make a contract for the building of the sewers in the district covered by the previous recommendation of this Committee.

As the firm of Thomas Bros. wished to bid on said contract, Mr. D. J. Thomas of the committee being a member of that firm, withdrew from the committee.

We then contracted with the firm of Thomas Brothers to build the whole of said sewers for the sum of \$62,039.62, being the amount of our engineer's estimate; the contractor agreeing to take the work already done by the committee at its cost to the committee, and also to take all tools and supplies on hand at cost.

About three-quarters of the work contemplated by the contract has been performed, and the remainder is progressing so rapidly as to leave little doubt that the whole will be completed at the time contemplated by the contract, viz. : July 1st, A. D. 1886.

The financial exhibit is as follows :

Appropriation,		\$50,000 00
Paid Contractor to date,	\$44,194 49	
Engineer “	877 99	
Inspector “	585 00	
Incidentals “	56 96	
	<hr/>	\$45,714 44
Balance available,		<hr/> \$4285 56

The whole cost, including inspections, engineering and extra work, will probably amount to about \$66,000. As the present appropriation is but \$50,000, it will be necessary for the Town to provide some \$16,000 additional. This will be amply provided for as soon as the assessments on abutters come in; therefore your Committee recommend that the Treasurer be authorized to borrow so much money, not exceeding \$16,000, as may be necessary, in anticipation of the assessments for sewer.

There is a small balance left from the preliminary sewer appropriation and a portion of the premiums received from sale of sewer bonds, which, if made available for this purpose, would reduce the amount to be so borrowed.

S. E. RIPLEY.
 FELIX F. McCUE.
 I. CHENERY.
 R. M. STARBUCK.
 J. F. BARTLETT.
 C. W. HAZELTON.
 J. McILVENE.

PAUPERS.

OVERSEERS' ACCOUNT.

Otter Ranny,	\$3 00
Mrs. Carrie Bulle,	10 70
Mrs. Terry,	65 90
Francis Belmo,	13 00
Sincere family,	90 85
Michael Strahan,	5 00
E. H. Ellis,	74 34
Mrs. Peter Dague,	26 69
W. F. Reed,	39 00
Nathan Stewart,	42 43
A. Lawson,	5 00
Bowers family,	136 56
Leader family,	8 39
Miles O'Riley,	23 76
Henry Kentfield,	104 50
Burnham boy,	15 50
Octavia Scott,	59 00
Otis Caswell,	114 00
Daniel Scott, state school,	26 14
Patrick Kennedy, “	39 28
Daniel Kenedy, “	39 28
Dwight Cook,	7 50
Mrs. Horace Pratt,	5 00
Chas. Cook,	23 15
Mary Sullivan,	14 00
Julia Ware,	17 50
Gertie White,	40 08
John Squires,	24 67
Jennie Rouse and child,	10 00
E. E. Pike,	7 00
—— Slattery,	7 93
O. Stebbins,	5 00
Eugene Revett,	10 75
B. F. Tilden,	4 30
Traveling Expenses,	10 05
Peter Dyer,	2 00
Tickets state paupers,	3 70

Stationery and telegraph,	9 29
W. Dell,	1 00
Mrs. Zimmerman,	36 00
—— Hannigan,	2 90
Desmond children,	54 00
A. Patanode,	28 50
John Shumaker,	10 00
Julia Martin,	16 00
E. A. Britt,	23. 78
L. Donnelly,	50
E. C. Coy, salary,	100 00
Ezra Stowell,	182 00
Parsnow family,	84 78
Riley family	12 00
Burial expenses,	63 25
Andrew Lamorey,	37 00
Mrs. J. Crimmins,	117 95
Wm. Desmond,	53 35
Trafley Heon,	31 00
State Paupers,	14 83
Mrs. J. Murphy,	114 60
A. Mosher,	105 35
Mrs. Iserwood,	5 00
Mrs. Levi Welcome,	16 00
Frank Sincere,	22 50
Michael Daly,	17 25
Christian Early,	50 00
Jerry DuTemple,	61 35
Mrs. Kate Leary,	54 83
Armstrong,	3 50
Mrs. John Shea,	110 00
	<hr/>
	\$2583 96

Paid on Farm account,	\$1252 30	
Old State bills,	627 91	
Old bills,	34 00	
	<hr/>	\$1914 21
		<hr/>
		4498 17
Remaining in Treasury,		7 83

Town appropriation,	\$4,000 00	
Received from New London R.R.Co.,	60 00	
“ Town of Adams,	100 30	
“ State Treasurer,	120 00	
“ Town of Shutesbury,	24 00	
“ “ Athol,	17 00	
“ “ Greenfield,	138 00	
“ “ Spencer,	29 00	
“ “ Northfield,	10 50	
“ “ New Salem,	7 00	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$4506 00	\$4506 00
Due from State,		\$78 75
“ Northampton,		10 50
“ Holyoke,		76 00
“ Hawley,		16 29
		<hr/>
		\$181 54

EDWIN DEMOND, } OVERSEERS
R. M. STARBUCK, } OF
J. GEO. EPPLER, } POOR.

TOWN FARM.

OVERSEERS' ACCOUNT.

Received for stabling horses,	\$50 70
“ “ team work,	20 10
“ “ Pigs,	27 50
“ “ Milk,	94 10
“ “ Pasturing,	21 05
“ “ Butter,	1 00
“ “ Potatoes,	2 75
“ “ Hens,	2 50
“ “ Town Treasury,	1252 30
	<hr/>
	\$1481 00

Paid Charles Wood, salary,	\$275 90
Help on Farm,	57 60
Hired girl,	129 90
Groceries,	222 47
Shingling,	9 60
Hay,	10 99
Meal and flour,	196 43
Blacksmithing,	33 38
Medical aid,	29 35
Newspaper,	2 00
Ladder,	4 50
Meat,	56 88
Tinware,	4 55
Soap,	9 00
Ashes and fertilizers,	36 85
Harness,	13 00
Butter worker,	3 00
Burial expenses,	11 00
Repair of harness,	6 25
1 bull,	15 00
1 horse,	75 00
Bedding and clothing,	71 69
Pigs,	7 50
Fish,	10 80
Crackers,	18 78
Mowing machine,	25 00
Sawing lumber,	19 47
Coal,	19 06
Furniture,	27 57
Water works,	67 33
Repairs boots and shoes,	4 50
Plough points,	1 75
Onions,	2 40
Repair of farm tools,	7 50
	<hr/>
	\$1481 00

INVENTORY OF TOWN FARM, FEB. 14, 1886.

Real estate,	\$4500 00
7 tons of hay,	140 00
1500 corn fodder,	8 00
1 ton straw,	10 00
2 horses,	175 00
5 cows,	200 00
1 bull,	20 00
10 shoats,	60 00
60 hens,	30 00
55 bush. corn,	30 25
20 bush. rye,	12 00
225 lbs. beef,	15 75
340 lbs. pork,	34 00
100 lbs. hams,	10 00
200 lbs. squash,	4 00
60 lbs. lard,	6 00
6 lbs. butter,	1 50
2 bbls. flour,	12 00
$\frac{1}{2}$ bbl. crackers,	1 50
1 bush walnuts,	1 50
1 bush pop corn.	1 00
10 lbs. sausage,	1 00
1 bush. beans,	2 00
2 bush. onions,	2 00
90 bush potatoes,	37 50
25 bbls. apples,	50 00
300 lbs. cabbage,	4 40
8 bbls. cider,	16 00
10 gal. vinegar,	1 50
	<hr/>
	\$5387 00
Household furniture,	450 00
Farming tools,	300 00
	<hr/>
	\$6137 00

There has been furnished 450 weeks' board to the inmates at the farm.

Number of tramps furnished lodging at the farm, 240.

E. DEMOND,	} OVERSEERS
R. M. STARBUCK,	
J. GEO. EPPLER,	
	OF
	POOR.

SELECTMEN'S ACCOUNT.

POLICE.

M. O'Keefe,	\$699 96
J. W. Morrison,	699 96
	<hr/>
	\$1,399 92
Appropriation,	1,400 00
	<hr/>
Balance,	08

STATE AND COUNTY TAXES.

State Tax,	2,430 00
County Tax,	4,309 37
	<hr/>
	\$6,739 37

STATE AND MILITARY AID.

State Aid,	797 00
Military Aid,	36 00
“ “ David Pratt,	48 00
	<hr/>
	\$881 00

DUE FROM STATE.

State Aid, 1885,	815 00
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INTEREST ACCOUNT.

Paid Interest on Town Note,	\$1,125 00
“ Temporary Interest,	302 68
	<hr/>
	\$1,427 68
Balance in Treasury,	72 32
	<hr/>
	\$1,500 00
Appropriation,	\$1,500 00
Paid Town Note,	\$5,000 00
Appropriation,	\$5,000 00

TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid Wm. S. Dana, School Committee,	\$100 00
Seymour Rockwell, “	100 00
A. V. Bowker, “	100 00
S. E. Ripley, Selectman,	200 00
Felix McCue, “	100 00
I. Chenery, “	100 00
Wm. P. Crocker, Treasurer,	150 00
Wm. S. Dana, Town Clerk,	50 00
C. W. Hazelton, Assessor,	125 00
J. H. Root, “	100 00
S. H. Amidon, “	100 00
E. Demond, Overseer Poor,	100 00
R. M. Starbuck, “	100 00
J. G. Eppler, “	50 00
E. C. Coy, Board of Health,	50 00
Jacob Fritz, “	50 00
Paul Mooney, “	35 00
	<hr/>
	\$1610 00

MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES.

Paid Wm. P. Wilder, examining glandered horse,	\$5 00
Union skating rink, March meeting,	20 00
W. W. Chase, services as Auditor,	5 00
Lighting Millers Falls bridge,	11 50
C. N. Johnson, use of team,	6 00
J. W. Morrison, truant officer,	90 00
M. O'Keefe, services as constable,	17 23
C. T. Bagnall, printing,	297 71
J. A. Tupper, driving hearse,	110 00
H. W. Hitchcock, lockup,	1 57
H. C. Haskell, repairing road scraper,	15 00
E. F. Gunn, collecting taxes, 1880,	79 00
Wood for lockup,	25 00
Kate Armstrong, salary Librarian,	50 00
Henry E. Ware, damage to horse on highway,	7 00
Repairing boat, “Rice's ferry,”	11 57
M. D. Waller, care of J. Gates, small-pox,	39 48

M. O'Keefe, care of lockup from May, 1884 to May, 1885,	75 00
W. D. Russell, $\frac{1}{2}$ dog fund,	113 75
John Jamison, repairs lockup,	2 80
Union skating rink, Town meeting May 4, June 7 and June 10,	50 00
Rose Whittaker, damages on highway,	400 00
Field & Sibley, groceries furnished, small-pox,	7 09
Dwight Cook, killing glandered horse,	5 00
J. G. Eppler, books, old bill,	78 21
Stone boat, highway,	5 00
Cleansing Pest house,	6 00
Table for Selectmen's room,	13 50
Thomas Bros., repairs on Town house,	13 95
Painting hearse,	34 25
Water closet for school "lockup,"	24 60
Wm. French, transportation school children, old bill,	50 00
Wm. S. Dana, insurance,	41 55
Special police, Lake Pleasant,	77 50
A. Moore, repairs, town house,	9 73
John Royer, special police, Turners Falls,	7 50
Building water closet, lock-up,	8 50
Aaron Pike, auditor,	3 00
J. F. Bartlett, blinds for town house, \$23.52, guide boards, etc., \$11.25,	34 77
Lumber and labor covering stairs, lock-up,	24 61
M. R. Pierce, buckets for lock-up,	5 85
E. Lester, water rent,	5 00
C. M. Gunn, "	4 00
F. H. Brown & Co., stationery,	2 45
Joseph Clapp, driving hearse,	42 00
Field & Hall, license blanks, and books,	10 35
Richard Clapp, water rent,	8 00
J. McIlvene, counsel, damage to Aldrich horse,	25 00
M. O'Keefe, posting warrants,	5 50
Harvey Sawyer, damage from filling highway,	125 00
Elmer Cramer, witness in Stinson case,	24 50
L. J. Marsters, livery teams,	8 00
C. N. Johnson, "	3 00
Wm. S. Dana, insurance,	75 00

Wm. S. Dana, books,	80
E. A. Deane, $\frac{1}{2}$ dog fund,	113 75
E. K. Warner, services as referee, on Sawyer's road,	5 00
E. C. Coy, professional services,	4 00
W. H. P. Gilmor, insurance,	49 00
Wm. French, Rice's ferry,	51 45
D. W. Bond, services in cases Stinson and Whittaker,	239 81
I. A. Darling, kine points,	18 75
F. F. Vanvalkenburg, attendance to court and plans,	18 75
H. H. Shepard, repairs Rice's Ferry,	3 00
R. N. Oakman, water rent,	6 00
Kate Armstrong, librarian,	12 50
R. M. Starbuck & Co.,	13 21
Lighting Millers Falls Bridge,	11 70
F. F. McCue, posting warrants,	5 50
C. P. Wise, oil, chimneys and lanterns,	6 43
Union Skating Rink, Nov. meeting,	20 00
W. F. McQuesten, blankets for Lock-up,	2 80
Paid expenses looking after stolen property at Town Farm,	13 93
Wm. S. Dana, legal services,	50 00
F. L. Fuller, services as engineer,	12 00
Wm. S. Dana, registering voters,	25 00
Wm. S. Dana, stationery and expense,	18 40
Wm. S. Dana, recording births and deaths,	135 10
Wm. Baribeault, recording births,	6 00
Mrs. Milkey, “	22 75
E. C. Coy, “	7 00
E. G. Best, “	3 50
Lucas March, registrar voters,	25 00
M. B. Allen, registrar voters,	25 00
E. I. Cassidy, registrar voters,	25 00
Dr. Bowker, recording births and deaths,	3 25
Frank Gerald, team for registrars,	17 25
Frank Gerald, team to Greenfield, Stenson case,	3 00
L. J. Marsters, team for State Aid Agent,	5 50
Town of Greenfield, $\frac{1}{2}$ damage to Owens' horse, on suspension bridge,	12 50

J. W. Morrison, serving warrants on dog owners,	20 75
C. W. Hazelton, books and expenses, for Assessors,	18 05
W. H. Ward, posting warrants,	7 50
A. Williams, repairs Town House,	9 35
Michael Fitzgerald, damage to horse,	36 00
D. W. Benjamin, water rent,	5 00
I. Chenery, telephoning and telegraphing,	17 05
I. Chenery, Stinson case,	21 60
I. Chenery, stationery,	26 50
Wm. P. Crocker, stationery,	2 11
S. E. Ripley, stationery, telegraphing and stamps,	19 35
S. E. Ripley, traveling expenses,	13 40
Wm. P. Crocker, rent Montague City bridge,	240 00
	<hr/>
	\$3686 31
 Paid Town officers,	 1610 00
	<hr/>
	\$5296 31
 Appropriation,	 4500 00
	<hr/>
Deficiency,	\$796 31
 Decoration Day,	 \$100 00
Appropriation,	100 00

BOARD OF HEALTH.

P. D. Kelliher,	\$117 62	
E. C. Coy, vaccination,	50 00	
Team,	1 50	
	<hr/>	169 12

Appropriation,	\$200 00
Balance,	30 88

NEW SCHOOL HOUSE.

Enlarging and furnishing school house,	
G street,	\$3183 55
Building and furnishing new school house,	
8th street,	11,658 55
	<hr/>
	\$14,842 10

Appropriation,	15,000 00
Balance,	157 90

SUMMARY OF SELECTMEN'S ORDERS.

Town officers,	\$1610 00
Miscellaneous,	3686 31
Highways and Bridges,	11,657 18
Police,	1399 92
Board of Health,	169 12
New school houses,	14,842 00
State aid,	797 00
Military aid,	84 00
Sewers,	46,119 03
Decoration Day,	100 00
	<hr/>
	\$80,464 56

Abatement of Taxes 1880,	\$27 50
“ “ 1881,	164 10
“ “ 1882,	359 16
“ “ 1883,	171 67
“ “ 1884,	179 76
“ “ 1885,	215 00
Discount, 1885,	2847 58
	<hr/>
	\$3964 77

LIABILITIES OF TOWN.

Town Loan,	\$20,000 00
Sewer Loan,	50,000 00
Borrowed Money,	5,500 00
	<hr/>
	\$75,500 00

ASSETS.

Due from State, for State and Military Aid,	\$815 00
Unpaid Taxes, 1882,	400 67
“ “ 1883,	124 67
“ “ 1884,	2487 72
“ “ 1885,	6545 88
Cash on hand,	78 41
	<hr/>
	\$10,452 35
Net town debt, March 1, 1885,	17,748 14
“ “ “ March 1, 1886,	64,047 65

ESTIMATED NECESSARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR

1886.

State and County Tax,		\$7500 00
Schooling and repairs,	\$12,500 00	
Text books and supplies,	1000 00	
	<hr/>	13,500 00
Support of poor,		4000 00
Night police,		1400 00
Highways and bridges,		6000 00
Incidental expenses,		5000 00
Interest,		1500 00
Town debt,		5000 00
Interest on Sewer Loan,		2000 00
Sinking Fund, Sewer Loan,		2000 00
		<hr/>
		\$47,900 00

HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.

TURNERS FALLS AND CITY.

Repairs,	\$3209 00	
Planking Suspension Bridge, no ap- propriation,	742 18	
New Bridge over Canal, no appropria- tion,	613 93	
Old bills for work done on 8th St.,	95 85	
	<hr/>	\$4660 96

MILLERS FALLS.

Repairs,	\$950 38
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MONTAGUE CENTRE.

Repairs,	\$1147 33	
Hardening road at Depot,	186 75	
Culvert, Montague Centre,	458 00	
	<hr/>	\$1792 08

CHESTNUT HILL.

Repairs,	\$128 55
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DRY HILL.

Repairs,	\$97 53	
	<hr/>	\$7629 50

Appropriation,	\$6000 00	
Received of Greenfield, planking bridge and repairs,	390 59	
	<hr/>	\$6390 59

Deficiency,	\$1238 91
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New street, Millers Falls,	\$199 65	
“ Turners Falls,	1346 77	
	<hr/>	\$1546 42

Appropriation,	1500 00	
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Deficiency,	\$46 42
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NINTH STREET.

Paid Michael Sullivan, work on 9th St., vote of town,	\$487 97	
Paid Geo. Hartley, work on L St., vote of town,	100 00	
	<hr/>	\$587 97
Appropriation,		587 97

RAILROAD BRIDGE, MONTAGUE CENTRE,

Fitchburg R. R. Co., 1-3 expense,	\$1893 29	
Appropriation,	1800 00	
	<hr/>	
Deficiency,		\$93 29

SEWERS.

Paid Thomas Bros., in account,	\$44,194 49	
S. C. Heald, engineer,	877 99	
S. E. Ripley, inspector,	585 00	
Incidentals,	56 96	
	<hr/>	\$45,714 44
Sewer loan,		\$50,000 00
		<hr/>
Balance,		\$4285 56
Received premiums on bonds,	\$2015 00	
“ Interest,	192 94	
“ Interest from bank,	169 03	
	<hr/>	\$2376 97
Paid interest on Sewer Loan,	\$1000 00	
Expense printing and negotiating Loan,	54 59	
	<hr/>	\$1054 59
		<hr/>
		\$1322 38
Plans for Sewer,	\$350 00	
Appropriation,	500 00	
	<hr/>	
Balance,	\$150 00	

Respectfully submitted,

S. E. RIPLEY,	} Selectmen of Montague,
F. F. McCUE,	
I. CHENERY,	

We, the undersigned, have this day examined the accounts and vouchers of the Treasurer, Selectmen, Overseers of the Poor, and School Committee, and find the same to agree substantially with the foregoing reports, with the exception that the Treasurer's report should show cash on hand, \$5,578.41, instead of \$78.41, as \$5,500 was borrowed Feb. 26, and does not show in his cash account. This note shows in the liabilities, but not in the assets. The net Town debt should be \$59,547.-65, instead of \$65,047.65.

C. M. BURNETT, } AUDITING
E. L. BARTLETT, } COMMITTEE.

MONTAGUE, Mass., Feb. 26, 1886.

LIST OF JURORS PROPOSED BY THE SELECTMEN.

Geo. E. Hartley,
 Leander Brigham,
 Wm. E. Dudley,
 S. H. Amidon,
 I. Chenery,
 Thaxter Shaw,
 Geo. A. Clapp,
 S. E. Ripley,
 Horace Burnham,
 J. F. Bartlett,
 Philip Jacobus,
 J. P. Morgan,
 Lowry Clapp,
 Clarence Owen,
 Chas. Billings,
 F. F. McCue,
 Joseph Clapp,
 Chas. W. Hazelton,
 Nicholas Schwitzer,
 Sanford Marsh,
 H. H. Root,
 H. S. Sawyer,
 R. B. Campbell,
 F. A. Rist,
 Jason Mann,

Lyman Wilder,
 C. A. Davis,
 E. P. Goodale,
 Aaron Pike,
 C. P. Bardwell,
 Smith Perry,
 Eugene Taft,
 J. R. Ball,
 J. G. Eppler,
 Wm. R. Armstrong,
 W. H. Nims,
 A. H. Ward,
 Stephen McCarthy,
 Andrew McCarthy,
 Geo. H. Goddard,
 T. F. Harrington,
 E. W. Smith,
 George Gammell,
 Warren Bardwell,
 E. D. Severance,
 Geo. C. Lougee,
 Christian Fritz,
 Philip Shanahan,
 Wm. A. Hebert,

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Montague Public Library,

FROM FEB. 1, 1885, TO FEB. 1, 1886.

Whole number of volumes in Library,		2582
Number added past year,		185
“ families taking books,		57
“ Books taken during year,		3981
Cash on hand, Feb. 1st, 1885,	\$121 45	
Received from members,	45 67	
“ “ Dog fund,	113 75	
	<hr/>	\$280 87
Amount expended for books,	\$220 66	
“ “ Magazines,	11 00	
“ “ Wood, Lights, etc.,	6 74	
Cash on hand, Feb. 1st, 1886,	42 47	
	<hr/>	\$280 87

KATE A. ARMSTRONG, Librarian.

E. A. DEANE, Treasurer.

Montague, Feb. 1st, 1886.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF THE
TOWN OF MONTAGUE.

The law that requires the School Committees of the numerous Towns in the Commonwealth to annually report to the State Board of Education was enacted that the condition and needs of the schools might be set forth in manifold ways, to better facilitate the designs of the State to make new and better provisions for them, such as more intelligent and rational methods of teaching, more and better text books, more practical suggestions and directions. These annual reports should serve moreover to correct the deep-rooted prejudices, erroneous habits and customs which may have obtained in communities, to promote a more intimate acquaintance between the so constituted higher authorities and the rank and file, the superintendents, the schools and patrons, and also to impart wise counsel, judicious criticism, and more liberal encouragement to the multitude of self-sacrificing teachers, whose devotion and arduous duties are but partially appreciated by the great business-absorbed public.

The multitude of expressions of satisfaction, of congratula-

tion, of hope and suggestion, of demand for reform and correction, which are enumerated in the hundreds of unpretentious tracts styled school reports, must in some measure illuminate the course of the State Board, and direct the adoption of necessary measures and provisions for the interests of the schools.

Among the things which the committee esteems it a very pleasant privilege to mention, and in the pride of which the inhabitants are justified are :

I. That Montague is by far the best equipped in school buildings of any town in the county, their total value exceeding \$60,000, there being but three small old fashioned school houses, which are furnished and in good repair. New buildings have been erected and furnished the past year which will seat upwards of three hundred pupils, and from present prospects are sufficient to supply the demands for a few years to come, so that another year those unsuitable rooms which have been used from necessity can be abandoned. The third story of the grammar school building can be fitted up for recitation rooms and a laboratory whenever there shall be a demand for them. It would seem proper to suggest that these beautiful and convenient buildings are susceptible to some interior embellishments, such as musical facilities, pictures for the walls to make the rooms attractive and administer to aesthetic taste, and some exterior attractions such as planting trees in the yard and around the play ground.

II. During the past year the State Board has been paying especial attention to the condition and needs of the towns in Western Massachusetts. We are proud to be able to say that more than ten years ago, our town adopted the measure which they to-day recommend most emphatically for

the rural towns, viz. : consolidation of the schools, a measure which has become a part of our school system, maintained by town appropriation, economical and universally acceptable to the inhabitants.

III. Among the whole twenty-seven teachers whom we employ, none has proved a complete failure. Yet we cannot speak of them all with the unqualified satisfaction that we feel in the foregoing allusions.

Our teachers are not all trained teachers. The term trained need not necessarily imply normal teacher, yet the term normal generally implies trained teacher. Hence we employ them more confidently. Observation and experience establish us more firmly in the conviction that only trained teachers should be given the charge of our larger schools.

Many of our teachers have made self-training schools of their work—have applied the methods which they have observed and devised—very successfully to their departments.

Yet our large schools can hardly be given for any considerable time for practice and experiment to the novitiate, unless she gives early evidence of superior tact and ability.

Parents, importunate for positions for their daughters, inexperienced and physically immature, just out of the public schools, have an inadequate conception of the undertaking, its demands and perplexities, and of the injustice such teachers are likely to do themselves, and the evil to the school from their inexperience and inefficiency. A mistake often made by parents and young teachers is, that when a young teacher, or old for that matter, is given a small school the year more or less for which she is employed, partakes of the nature of a season of penance which entitles her to a position of higher responsibility, regardless of

the aptitude which she has shown as a teacher. It should be mutually understood that when assigned a small school, she is not asked to serve as a favor to the committee, thereby entailing an obligation on their part to fulfil, but that there is nothing in the transaction implying future favor. If, however, she has impressed the committee that she has real teaching and governing qualities, they would deem it their duty to consider an application from her, a "preferred claim."

Yet, unless an applicant can answer the question, how to teach, intelligently and practically, thereby giving evidence of having studied the science and art of instructing and governing, it seems presumptuous for her to ask for positions in any grade of school. Any others a Committee should not be justified in taking on trial. It is the province of the Committee to prescribe *what* to teach; it is not incumbent upon them to tell *how*.

The committee in their last year's report called particular attention to the matter of attendance, relating to children going to school for the first time, and since their request, for good reasons no doubt, has not been complied with, in all cases, it seems proper to repeat it. At the beginning of the Fall Term, all the classes are formed for the year's work. If children come in during either of the succeeding terms, Winter or Spring, a new and extra class must be formed for them or they must be placed in a class which has made some advancement and the class instruction is not applicable to them. It is hoped that the parents will see the propriety and justice of this request and comply with it.

CONCLUSION.

But few of the many questions, thoughts, suggestions, that present themselves after each year of observation can be embraced within the ordinary limits of an annual school report. We have selected such as seemed the more important, and

briefly commented upon them. We submit it to the consideration of the authorities and patrons, trusting that the report, as well as our humble services, will be looked upon with the charity they deserve, and we trust that the inhabitants of the Town share with us in no inconsiderable measure the seemingly justifiable pride we feel in the condition and prospects of the schools of Montague.

W. S. DANA,
A. V. BOWKER,
SEYMOUR ROCKWELL, } COMMITTEE.

